

NATIONAL MARINE PROTECTED AREAS CENTER

www.mpa.gov

Making MPA Networks Operational

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National Ocean Service
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management





BRIDGET BESAW

Local stakeholders can be strong proponents of marine conservation when they receive tangible benefits such as these fishermen at Tayrona National Park, Caribbean.

This guide provides essential information to better understand the role of marine protected area networks to achieve marine conservation. It utilizes current scientific knowledge, institutional experience and global case studies to present the most relevant lessons in building resilient and functional networks. An important feature is the balance among social, economic, legal and ecological considerations, which collectively contribute to management decisions. The tested techniques will be extremely useful for practitioners, managers and field staff in designing and implementing effective marine protected area networks that are resilient to human and environmental threats.



Establishing Resilient Marine Protected Area Networks – Making It Happen

Full Technical Version, including Ecological, Social and Governance Considerations, as well as Case Studies

2008



Key elements of operational networks

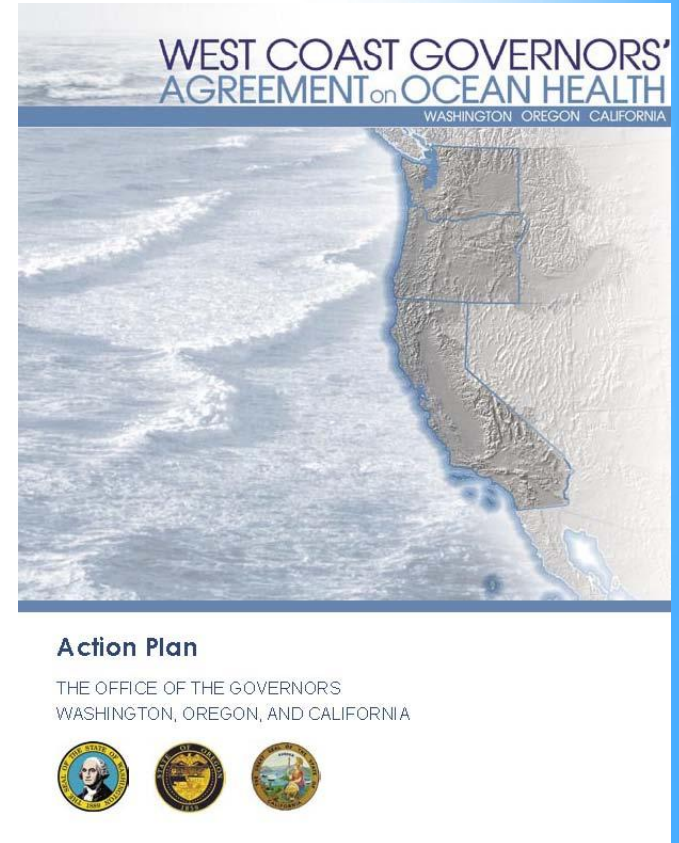
- Political will and leadership
- Stakeholder engagement
- Public education, communication & awareness
- Monitoring and assessment
- Enforcement and compliance
- Sustainable financing

Other broad-scale considerations

- Institutional and governance
- Economic and social
- Spatial and temporal
- Scientific and information management

Political Will and Leadership

- Legislative/Executive action
- Funding
- Examples





MicronesiaChallenge
www.micronesiachallenge.org

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for future generations
of micronesians like these ...

please help.

TAKE THE CHALLENGE ➤
help us preserve Micronesia for future generations

TAKE
CHALLENGE

ABOUT
CHALLENGE

SUCCESS
STORIES

PHOTO
GALLERY

Because Micronesia's islands are especially vulnerable to global environmental threats such as climate change, deforestation, unsustainable fishing practices, and invasive species, the **Micronesia Challenge** is a commitment by the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.



Public Participation and Political support

- Recognition that political and public support are interrelated
- Critical to achieving significant and lasting management outcomes
- *Must exist in order to move from the developmental to operational stage of a network of MPAs.*

Stakeholder Engagement

- Essential throughout design and operational stages
- Examples:
 - Sanctuary Advisory Councils
 - Public meetings on new management plans
 - “Friends of” groups
 - Volunteer programs
 - Visitor centers

Public outreach and education

- Shared messages for communication
- Learning networks to share lessons and progress
- Involving local community members who can share their observations and interest
- Sharing resources and expertise, forming new partnerships



The Ocean Takes Care of Us, Let's Return the Favor ...

The ocean is a vital resource that provides food, water, commerce, recreation, medicine and even the air we breathe. Today, our ocean faces unprecedented threats from pollution, trash, declining fisheries and multiple impacts from climate change.



THE MANY THREATS TO THE OCEAN

Unfortunately, our ocean faces unprecedented threats from pollution, trash in our oceans, declining fisheries and multiple impacts from climate change.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Join the Thank You Ocean Campaign! The ocean needs our help and you can make a difference by committing to take action in your everyday life. Join us today in saying, "Thank You, Ocean!"



[VIEW THE THANK YOU OCEAN VIDEO](#)



[VIEW VIEW THE PSA FEATURING ACTOR EDWARD JAMES OLMOS](#)



[SIGNUP FOR OUR E-NEWSLETTER](#)



JOIN

join our social networks



PLEDGE

sign the petition



ENGAGE

enter contests



PARTNER

corporate partnerships

Example: National Estuarine Research Reserves

- Mission:
- Activities
 - K-12 education
 - Graduate fellowships
 - Community education



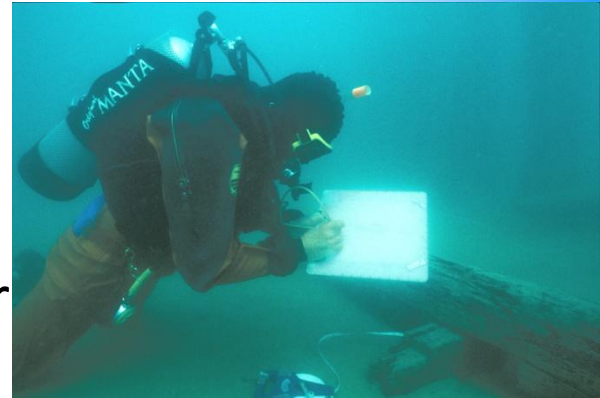
Monitoring and Assessment



- Key for measuring progress toward objectives
- Often difficult to secure ongoing funding
- Monitoring & assessment should be built into network design

Monitoring and Assessment: Maximizing the Value

- Identify appropriate indicators related to network objectives
- Develop long-term databases
- Coordinate & standardize data collection for comparability
- Include sites inside & outside network (controls)
- Maximize data analysis, access and reporting
- Link management decisions to monitoring outcomes
- Build flexibility into systems to manage for change & new technologies



Enforcement and Compliance

- **Enforcement:** actions taken against people who fail to abide by the rules.
- **Compliance:** when people accept and act in accord with the rules and regulations of the MPA network.



Fostering Effective Enforcement and Compliance

- Build in compliance and enforcement into network design
- Educate to build compliance
- Rules must be understandable
- Develop surveillance programs to support compliance and enforcement
- Support enforcement through appropriate penalties



Key Elements of Sustainable Financing

- Sharing costs and management responsibilities
- Building diverse portfolios (e.g. endowments, dedicated funding)
- Administrative and governance systems
- Public and political support

Sustainable Financing - Examples

- Public-private partnerships (e.g. MLPA; “friends of” groups)
- Funding tied to exploitation of ocean resources (e.g. Wallop-Breaux funding for fisheries; Land and Water Conservation Fund)
- User fees (e.g. park admission fees; tourism taxes; concessions)

